

Update on the Guideline Methodology of HICPAC

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HICPAC

“One of the primary functions of the committee is to issue recommendations for preventing and controlling health care associated infections in the form of guidelines, resolutions and informal communications.”

Recent HICPAC Guidelines

- Isolation precautions (2007)
- Influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel (2006)
- Preventing healthcare associated pneumonia (2005)
- Hand hygiene in healthcare settings (2002)
- Prevention of surgical site infections (1999)

Current Challenges

- Immense and rapidly growing evidence base
- Increasing attention to HAIs
- Emerging infectious disease
- Prioritizing reviews
- Communicating reviews to providers

Our Needs

- Rapidly develop and update guidelines
- Rapidly respond to emerging needs
- Address the key clinical questions of infection control personnel and providers
- Use available evidence to answer questions
- Provide recommendations without bias
- Transparency

Our Response

- Use emerging methods in evidence-based medicine and guideline development to develop a targeted systematic review based on the best available evidence with explicit links between the evidence and our recommendations
- Result is rapid, unbiased, and transparent reviews that use the evidence to address the key questions of providers, and that can be efficiently updated

GUIDELINE SEARCH

DEVELOPMENT OF KEY QUESTIONS

Review of relevant guidelines; vetting with clinical experts

LITERATURE SEARCH

Databases identified; search strategy developed;
references stored; duplicates resolved

ABSTRACT AND FULL-TEXT SCREENING

To identify studies which were a) relevant to one or more
key questions b) primary research, systematic review or
meta-analysis and c) written in English

DATA EXTRACTION AND SYNTHESIS

Data abstracted into evidence tables; study quality
assessed

FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS

Strength of evidence graded; recommendations developed

Organizing to Accomplish our Goals

- Dedicated employee from DHQP, NCID, CDC
 - Develop key questions
 - Screen abstracts and full text for inclusion
 - Write evidence summaries and recommendations
- HICPAC Member
 - Develop key questions
 - Screen abstracts and full text for inclusion
 - Review evidence summaries and recommendations
 - On the point to share bibliography and draft guideline with outside experts

Organizing to Accomplish our Goals (cont)

- Project Manager
 - Develop and maintain methods, set timeline, review and integrate all aspects of project
- Analyst
 - Extract data, build evidence tables, build GRADE tables
- Librarian
 - Develop search strategy, run searches, manage references

Challenges and Opportunities

- Developing clinically relevant and targeted key questions
- Judging quality of included studies (observational studies)
- Issues inherent to complex systematic reviews (SRs)
 - How to use previously published SRs
 - How to judge quality of studies included in SRs
- How to use meta-analyses given heterogeneity of evidence
- Adapting GRADE for HICPAC
 - Wording of recommendations
 - Changing implications for HICPAC categories
- Role of cost analyses in recommendations
- Balancing content and methods expertise efficiently
- Taking advantage of opportunities to direct future research

